

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 6th September 2021 at 7.30 pm

Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, Paul Kennedy, Nigel Smith, Nick Forrer, Andrew Freeman, Keith Francis, Les Huett, Carolyn Elson, Metin Huseyin, David Cox OBE, Zena Rose, Jackie Seaward, Monica Weller, Andrew Matthews, Martin Hollins,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. James Chambers, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Cllr Elizabeth Daly

Apologies: Michael Agius, John Howarth, Michael Lowes, Dan Coffin, Richard Davey, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Geoff Tranter, Julia Dickinson, Margaret Lawson, Diane Poole, John Allen

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

2.1 **MVDC Boundary Review:** Peter Seaward reported that proposals for MVDC councillor wards, there would be a reduction of seats from 41 to 39 across 13 Wards, with all-out elections in Year one followed by annual elections of one third of the council and then none on the fourth year.

AGM: All planning arrangements had been made and Lisa Townsend, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey Police would attend and answer questions. It was also noted that Michael Agius would be stepping down as deputy chairman and a volunteer is required to fill this very important role. Michael will continue to provide input to highways, drainage etc. as previously.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 There was no correspondence of any note.

4 MANAGEMENT GROUP (Finance, Secretariat)

4.1 Nil to report.

5 PLANNING GROUP

5.1 Nigel Smith reported that Mike Brookes has stepped down and the Committee thanked him for his input to the planning committee over a number of years. Volunteers to replace Mike, and indeed to boost numbers, are welcome.

5.2 Nigel also reported back on the activities of the Planning Committee during the last month. The Committee had written letters of objection regarding:

- MO/2021/1484: 39 The Park, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3LN - Variation of a condition of approved planning permission MO/2020/0643#
- MO/2021/1311: The Granary, Church Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3JP - Reduce one Ash Tree (marked T3 on submitted plan) by 50% and remove one large limb overhanging parking area.

5.3 **Howard of Effingham Site:** It was noted that the BRA has made representations on both of the Berkeley Homes planning applications in respect to the Howard of Effingham development.

Local Plan: The Local Plan is scheduled to be released tomorrow (7th September) as part of the Cabinet's agenda. Peter Seaward will be meeting with MVDC officers to discuss population statistics and densities, etc. as per the work Chris Holmes undertook. Peter will report back at the next meeting. Any further comments made will be addressed to the Inspector, via MVDC. The Local Plan will also be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

6 **ENVIRONMENT GROUP (Roads, Paths, Drainage, Flooding, Trees, Horticulture, Air pollution, Litter Pick)**

6.1 **Litter Pick/Great British Spring Clean:** It was reported that Margaret Lawson now has 40 Wombles, each adopting a road/street, to litter pick as and when the need arises.

6.2 **Square-about:** Drainage works are planned to commence on the 27th September and there will be road closures for 3 nights plus traffic lights for 10 weeks. us diversions will also be implemented throughout the works.

6.3 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt was unable to attend but provided an update in advance, reporting that the Tree Warden stand on Village Day was very busy and a lot of younger residents requested trees. These will be cross-checked to ensure they are members of the BERA.

6.4 18 trees are available with another 6 or 7 offers for further trees from various people. There were 31 requests for trees on the day, so we are unable to give trees to about 7 people who asked for one. However, when we check the addresses and locations prior to distribution/planting we may find a few of their front gardens are unsuitable, so we may have one or two to redistribute. We may also have a few smaller trees which we can offer to them.

6.5 There were 3 requests for SCC verge planting which Frances will add to her requests list. All in all Frances felt it was successful and the stall looked good with the addition of the trees.

6.6 **Norbury Park:** Andrew Matthews reported on some anti-social cycling issues in Norbury Park, e.g. cycle tracks being built, signs deterring such activities being torn down, etc. There has also been two serious incidents, one in February and another in March resulting in an unfortunate death and back injuries respectively. These issues are being addressed at the Norbury Park and Area of Outstanding Beauty committees.

7 **COMMUNITY GROUP (Education, Police, Transport, Emergency Services, Health, Churches Together)**

- 7.1 **Police:** It was noted that CCTV monitoring centre in Reigate is to be closed and it is understood that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey Police, Lisa Townsend, is not keen on CCTV although the north MV Residents Associations are. Indeed, the BRA is considering purchasing a third camera for Church Street at a cost of circa £5k to be funded through CIL. Lisa is attending the AGM and will be asked for comment.
- 7.2 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins said that the church had jointly appointed a chaplain to work with older people. He also reported that congregations are now beginning to return to 'normal'.
- 7.3 **Young People:** Peter Seaward spoke about the work that Chris Holmes had compiled that showed how many young people (0 to 19 year olds) within the village were considered living in poverty (after housing costs), i.e. 318 broken down as Bookham North = 154 and Bookham south = 164.
- 7.4 A lengthy discussion then followed concluding that many of the sports clubs did their best to ensure inclusivity but more support and activities are needed.
- 7.5 **Youth Centre:** The new youth centre should provide some of those new outlets although the planning process is taking a long time, including a delay in agreeing a lease agreement between MVDC and SCC. Richard Moyse said he would take this up with officers. Once agreement has been reached then a detailed planning application could be expected.

8 **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1 **Subscriptions:** Carolyn Elson said that 11 new members had signed up on Village Day and, in total, over £8,000 had been received for subscriptions and donations.
- 8.2 **Communications:** Les Huett said that following an appeal for help there had been some limited interest which he would follow up.
- 8.3 Regarding the Autumn Newsletter, this will be 12 pages as opposed to the shortened 8-page version last time. Les will also email members, where we have email addresses, regarding the AGM.

9 **BUSINESS GROUP (External Relations)**

- 9.1 Nil to report.

10 **PROJECT UPDATES**

- 10.1 **Hanging Baskets:** Andrew Matthews requested permission to purchase a watering machine at a cost of £300. This would be kept by one of the shops but could be used by any of the volunteers to water the baskets. The Committee approved the request.
- 10.2 **War Memorials:** Peter Seaward is actively seeking funding to refurbish the war graves in St. Nicolas and All Saint's churches.
- 10.3 **Benches:** Peter also reported that David Belsham would be restoring the 31 known

benches around the village using CIL funds

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 **Garden Waste Collection:** Due primarily to HGV driver shortages the garden waste bin collection service has been suspended and priority given the green and black bin collections. Unfortunately the garden waste bins are already full and the contents decomposing and do need emptying. Roger Adams acknowledged the problems and said MVDC is looking at all options to alleviate the problem. This would include encouraging residents to compost their garden waste.
- 11.2 **Vehicle Activated Signs: (VAS)** Andrew Freeman said that a meeting with Peter Harrison from the VAS camera partnership would be arranged shortly. Other volunteers would also be invited, although there are only two at the time of writing – James Chambers and Grant Woodham. More volunteers are welcome.
- 11.3 **South Western Trains Consultations:** The [consultation is open until 19th September](#), i.e. a permanent reduction in services, and members are invited to send in their comments. Clare Curran said both she and Cllr. Tim Hall would be meeting with the train company to discuss.
- 11.4 **Surrey Transport Plan:** Clare Curran said that SCC's draft [Transport Plan](#) for 2022 to 2032 and beyond is out for consultation until the end of October 2021.
- 11.5 **Trees and Hedges:** There were concerns expressed that mature trees are being felled before any action could be taken to prevent their destruction. There were also reports of overgrowing hedges obstruction paths. All such incidents should be reported to MVDC and SCC as appropriate and, in the case of tree-felling, urgently reported via phone if possible as urgent action has been taken previously.

12 NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 Monday 4th October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Harrison Room, Old Barn Hall.